

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated June 22, 2005 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), rejected claims 4-6, 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and objected to claims 9-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As indicated above, objected to claim 9 has been incorporated into claim 3, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled without prejudice and the remaining claims have been amended for proper dependency. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), withdraws the rejection to claims 4-6, 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and withdraws the objection to claims 10-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner enters this Amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 20, 2005

By: 

Ellen Marcie Emas
Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620